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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the texts of letters from His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hassan Hassanov, and the Representative of the Azerbaijani community in Nagorny Karabakh, Mr. Nariman Bakhmanov, addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh, Mr. Mario Raffaelli.

I should be grateful if you would bring the texts of these letters to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have them circulated immediately as Security Council documents.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex I

Letter dated 13 October 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh

I am compelled to write to you by a further, tragic escalation of aggression perpetrated by the Armenian warmongers against the Azerbaijani Republic.

On 10 October, at 0700 hours, after massive shelling, subunits of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, supported by large numbers of armoured vehicles, launched an offensive in the Djebrail district of the Azerbaijani Republic and attempted to capture the villages of Safarja and Guija, as well as the strategic heights surrounding them.

Beginning at 1400 hours on 12 October, the Armenian forces resumed their offensive, this time in the direction of the villages of Sheibey, Nuzgyar and Fyrjan, and launched fierce attacks which resulted in the capture of these settlements.

According to reports which have reached us, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, Serge Sarkisyan, who formerly headed the armed formations of the Armenian separatists in Nagorny Karabakh and even now is still exercising strategic command of these attacks, is currently in the occupied Azerbaijani district.

We are forced with bitter indignation to register the fact that the Armenian aggressor, which has not shown the slightest sign of renouncing its expansionist policies viv-à-vis Azerbaijan, has perpetrated its latest act of aggression, treacherously taking advantage of the cease-fire which had been achieved with such difficulty.

These actions by the Armenian side, which totally contradict its protestations of its commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and lay bare its true intentions, are likely to wreck the Minsk process, which is already very fragile.

These latest events have tangibly confirmed the sound reasons for our preoccupations concerning the timetable you have proposed, which, inter alia, fails to provide for the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories, as demanded by Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993). Our positions were made clear during the last meeting of the Minsk Group in Paris and during consultations with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of CSCE and the members of his mission.

The timetable which you have submitted for our consideration has effectively been invalidated by the actions of the Armenian side, once again demonstrating the necessity for a thorough review of the positions in the Minsk Group with regard to this document.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Azerbaijani Republic

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Annex II

Letter dated 7 October 1993 from the Representative of the Azerbaijani community in Nagorny Karabakh addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh

Thank you for your message of 29 September 1993, with the enclosed "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)".

As you know, I took part in the consideration of that document and made a number of critical comments which, to my great regret, and to that of several thousand displaced persons from the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, were not accepted by the chairman.

Consequently, I am once again obliged to draw your attention to the major - from our point of view - shortcoming of that document, namely the absence of a system of measures ensuring the speedy, guaranteed and safe return of Azerbaijani citizens expelled from their places of permanent residence in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic prior to the opening of the Minsk Conference. Otherwise, more than 50,000 out of what I imagine to be over one million suffering refugees from other regions of Azerbaijan will remain hostages of the annexationist policy of the Armenian aggressor for a prolonged and indefinite period.

The attempts to lower the status of participation of our delegation in the negotiations are unacceptable to us. In this matter we are determined to maintain our position of principle and, even in the event of agreement by the leadership of the Azerbaijani Republic, we, as representatives of the Azerbaijani community in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, will not give our consent. Your draft has virtually nullified the interests of tens of thousands of Azerbaijani inhabitants of Nagorny Karabakh who were hoping for assistance or perhaps merely understanding and participation. How can I explain all this to those people who found shelter in temporary dwellings or at times in mere roadside tents? I am wondering why the steps proposed by you are so far removed from the principles proclaimed by CSCE and from the demands of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and I cannot find an answer.

I am therefore obliged to note that the whole system of measures proposed in the documents reflects a blatant bias in favour of the interests of the Armenian side, obviously based on its military "successes". This approach favouring the Armenian aggressor is one that we cannot accept and we protest against it, since in fact it embodies the results of the "ethnic cleansing" carried out by the occupiers, which caused thousands upon thousands of victims.

I am convinced that the proposals put forward in the timetable and the annexes will merely contribute to radicalizing the sides that have temporarily suffered military losses. In an earlier message I already drew attention to processes of this kind taking place within our community; I fear that as a result of this document they will become even stronger.

During consideration of your document with representatives of the refugees, both military and civilian, extremely critical observations were made with regard not only to the document itself but also to the peace-keeping role of CSCE as a whole, and the view was expressed that you, by excluding peaceful means of enabling the Azerbaijanis to return to the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic, leave them with no alternative but to pursue the armed struggle for the right to live in their own land.

However, the belief in the efforts of the world community and the possibilities available to it as an intermediary has still persisted among some of these hapless people.

In the light of this situation, I once again appeal to you to continue the consultations with a view to revising the document submitted, which should more fully reflect the interests of the sides and, in particular, the Azerbaijani side, which has been subjected to violence and "ethnic cleansing" on the part of the Armenian aggressors, and now also to diplomatic pressure.

The draft which you sent is unacceptable to us and therefore we impatiently await the new version of the timetable, on the basis of which it will be possible to continue constructive work.

(Signed) N. BAKHMANOV
Representative of the Azerbaijani
community in Nagorny Karabakh

7 October 1993